

From: Bob Teese
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/24/01 5:48pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I strongly encourage you to revise the proposed Microsoft settlement. I believe it would end up letting Microsoft become more of an abusive monopolist, not less.

When I read the text of the settlement I spotted many loopholes, although I am not a lawyer. Even if Microsoft is eventually forced to divulge some code or change their behavior as a result of the settlement, they would be able to drag the process out long enough to crush the competition. They have already shown the ability to do that.

Windows XP contains an activation mechanism that will reduce piracy. That ought to lead to a reduction in price, but in fact XP will cost more. Only an unreformed monopolist could do that.

What bothers me the most is that the settlement is backward-looking. It would not prevent them from using their Windows monopoly to make .Net a monopoly by building it into Windows as they are already doing.

Thank you for your public service.

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